

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034222

FOL REPEAT STATE 034222 SENT ACTION BANGUI FEB 22

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034222

FOLLOWING SENT GENEVA BUENOS AIRES CANBERRA VIENNA BRIDGETOWN
BRUSSELS GABORONE MASERU RANGOON OTTAWA BRASILIA KINSHASA
MEXICO GUATEMALA SAN SALVADOR TEGUCIGALPA MANAGUA PANAMA
COPENHAGEN HELSINKI STOCKHOLM BONN ROME PARIS ATHENS ACCRA
PORT AU PRINCE SANTO DOMINGO NEW DELHI JAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR
SAIGON VIENTIANE BANGKOK DUBLIN LONDON ANKARA TEHRAN RABAT
MONROVIA LIMA BOGOTA CARACAS MONTEVIDEO SANTIAGO LA PAZ
ASUNCION SAN JOSE MADRID LISBON MUSCAT WELLINGTON TOKYO
SEOUL TEL AVIV ABIDJAN AMMAN KUWAIT ADDIS ABABA NICOSIA
BEIRUT LUXEMBOURG THE HAGUE OSLO MANILA JIDDA PRETORIA
MBABANE PORT OF SPAIN TUNIS NAIROBI SINGAPORE INFO PHNOM PENH
USUN NEW YORK MOSCOW FROM SECSTATE WASHDC 20 FEB 74:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 034222

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC, CB

SUBJECT: GENEVA CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR - KHMER REPRE-

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SENTATION ISSUE

REFS: (A) GENEVA 1053 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 27026

1. DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF WAR IS BEING CONVENED BY SWISS GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO DEVELOP PROTOCOLS SUPPLEMENTING AND BRINGING UP TO DATE GENEVA CONVENTIONS. IN ADDITION TO ADHERENTS TO CONVENTIONS, ALL STATE MEMBERS OF UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES HAVE BEEN INVITED. CONFERENCE PROCEDURE WILL BE BASED ON UN PRACTICE. AS NOTED IN REFTEL (B), IN ADDITION TO INHERENT DIFFICULTIES AHEAD IN SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, THERE ARE ALSO SERIOUS POLITICAL REPRESENTATIONAL ISSUES WHICH MAY HINDER PROGRESS OF MEETING.

2. U.S. DEL TO CONFERENCE JUST ADVISED THAT SUPPORTERS OF PRINCE SIHANOUK'S SO-CALLED ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION (GRUNK) WILL PROBABLY CHALLENGE, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, THE CREDENTIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC (GKR) AND INSIST THAT GRUNK OCCUPY CAMBODIAN SEAT.

3. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, THE USG DOES NOT REGARD GRUNK AS HAVING ANY OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF A LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT. PRINCE SIHANOUK, PUTATIVE LEADER OF GRUNK INSURGENTS, HAS BEEN AT NO SMALL PAINS PUBLICLY TO AVOW HIS DIFFERENCES WITH CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST INSURGENTS INSIDE CAMBODIA. THE GKR, ON THE OTHER HAND, CONTINUES TO CONTROL ITS CAPITAL, THE URBAN AREAS AND MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION. CONTINUED REFUGEE FLOWS TESTIFY TO THE KHMER DISINCLINATION FOR INSURGENTS CAUSE. INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING OF CIVILIANS BY COMMUNISTS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF TO WORLD OPINION. THE 28TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN VOTED 53-50 WITH 21 ABSTENTIONS DECEMBER 5, 1973 TO DEFER ISSUE OF KHMER REPRESENTATION UNTIL 29TH SESSION - LEAVING THE GKR AS THE CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATIVE. A SUBSEQUENT CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE TO GKR WAS DEFEATED 55 TO 50 WITH 17 ABSTENTIONS.

4. DEPT FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE WORK OF AN IMPORTANT TECHNICAL CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW SHOULD NOT BE DISRUPTED TO ENTERTAIN A MOTION THAT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF HAS DETERMINED TO DEFER.

5. THEREFORE, AND MINDFUL OF SHORT NOTICE AND DIFFICULTIES CAUSED THEREBY, DEPT REQUESTS THAT DEMARCHE BE MADE TO APPROPRIATE LEVEL HOST GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING USG VIEW, UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS USG HOPE THAT HOST GOVERNMENT WILL INSTRUCT ITS

DELEGATION IMMEDIATELY TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO SEAT THE GRUNK.

6. FOR GENEVA: BASED ON THE VOTING EXPERIENCE AT THE UNGA, BELIEVE PRC, YUGOSLAVS, CUBANS, TANZANIANS, ALBANIANS, ROMANIANS, AND SENEGALESE WILL BE PARTICULARLY VOCIFEROUS ON GRUNK'S BEHALF AND WILL LOBBY VERY HARD. GIVEN SHORT TIME LEAD FOR APPROACHES TO CAPITALS, EFFORTS BY DELEGATIONS FRIENDLY TO THE GKR WILL HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE CORRIDORS, PARTICULARLY WITH FOLLOWING DELEGATIONS WHO EITHER WERE ABSENT, ABSTAINED OR DID NOT FOLLOW THEIR GOVERNMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS AT THE UNGA: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BOTSWANA, BURMA, CYPRUS, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, ICELAND, INDIA, IRAN, JAMAICA, JORDAN, KUWAIT, KENYA, LEBANON, LIBERIA, MOROCCO, NIGERIA, PERU, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA AND ZAIRE. LIBERIAN REP VOTED FOR GKR AGAINST GOL'S INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN. ZAIRE'S REP VOTED AGAINST GKR AGAINST GOZ INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE IN FAVOR. IF RECENT GA EXPERIENCE IS ANY INDICATION, THE SOVIET BLOC WILL AT BEST ABSTAIN BUT IN ALL PROBABILITY WILL LINE UP FOR GRUNK. MODERATE ARAB STATES ARE OF COURSE RELUCTANT, IN

NAME OF ARAB UNITY, TO VOTE FOR THE GKR IN THE FACE OF MILITANT ARAB PRESSURES. ALL OTHER ACTION ADDRESSEES SUPPORTED GKR AT UNGA. RUSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED DOHA.

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